



# Arkansas Department of Education

*Division of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Jacob Oliva, Secretary

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## **Brandie Benton Named Assistant Commissioner for Educator Effectiveness, Licensure**

**LITTLE ROCK** — The Arkansas Department of Education is pleased to announce that Dr. Brandie Benton has been named the new assistant commissioner for the Educator Effectiveness and Licensure division. Located under ADE's Division of Elementary and Secondary Education, Educator Effectiveness and Licensure is responsible for awarding educator licenses and overseeing numerous additional educator programs such as the educator evaluation system.

"Dr. Benton brings a wealth of knowledge about education to the department," ADE Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva said. "From her extensive experience in K-12 and higher education to her numerous presentations and awards, Dr. Benton is a perfect fit to lead the Educator Effectiveness and Licensure division. We are excited to welcome her to the department as we celebrate and elevate the teaching profession."

Benton starts her new role August 18.

Prior to joining the department, Benton served as the deputy superintendent of curriculum and instruction at Virtual Arkansas the last four years. Before joining the team at Virtual Arkansas, Benton was the associate provost for enrollment services and admissions at Henderson State University from July 2017 to June 2021. She served as the coordinator for the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, assessment, and federal programs at Teachers College, Henderson from August 2011 to 2017. During that time, Benton also served as the administrator for the Tk20 system (the educator preparation program's assessment and accreditation management system).

Benton's previous experience also includes serving as an associate professor and university supervisor for Henderson, as well as the director of admissions and clinical experiences. She also worked as an international baccalaureate humanities/technology teacher at Hot Springs Middle School, a business technology teacher at the Math, Science, and Technology Magnet School in Hot Springs, and as a professional development specialist for The Learning Institute in Hot Springs.

Benton also is the co-founder for Schools Without Walls, an organization founded to support educators with effective use of technology in their classrooms.

In addition to earning a Bachelor of Science in Education in Social Studies from Henderson State University, Benton earned a Master of Science in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Henderson, completed the Educational Leadership Program of Study at Henderson, and earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville.

She is licensed in the following areas: middle level (grades 5-8) math, science, language arts, and social studies, Pre-K-12 English as a Second Language, secondary (grades 7-12) social studies, and Pre-K-12 building level administrator.

Benton currently is a member of the Virtual Learning Leadership Alliance, DLAC/The Community Advancing Digital Learning, Arkansas Council for the Social Studies, and National Council for the Social Studies.



Dr. Brandie Benton

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